

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tuck et al

Serial No.: 08/516,646

Filed: August 18, 1995

Group Art Unit: 2741

Examiner: Joseph Thomas

Attorney Docket No.: ACONT.0101C

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TRADING ELECTRIC ENERGY

Official

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

*In the Claims*

2 17. (Amended) A method of selling a quantity of electric energy between at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- D 1
- (a) connecting a first participant to a database display;
  - (b) connecting a second participant to the database display;
  - (c) displaying a price for the quantity of electrical energy; [and]
  - (d) computing a performance index associated with a reliability for either

participant; and

energy.

[[d]e) displaying a reliability indicator associated with any offer to sell electric

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